DELL
12c
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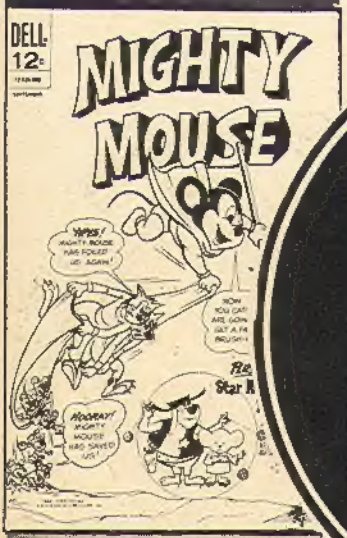
OCTOBER

THE OUTER LIMITS

THE SECRET OF THE AGES AT THE CENTER OF THE EARTH!

© 1966 DAYSTAR VILLA DI STEFANO UNITED ARTISTS

GREAT DELL COMICS ON SALE NOW!



DELL

FIRST WITH THE BEST IN COMICS!

Journey into the Earth
HOVERING OVER A NEWLY DISCOVERED PYRAMID ABOVE EGYPT'S SECOND CATARACT, JANET BLIGH BEGINS LOWERING ABEL DARE'S ARCHEOLOGICAL KIT WHEN SUDDENLY HER EYES WIDEN IN SURPRISE AND TERROR! THE WHOLE DESERT FLOOR AROUND THE GREAT STONE PYRAMID IS CRACKING OPEN! DOWN INTO THE WIDENING GULF, THE MONUMENTAL STONE MASTERWORK SINKS, CARRYING WITH IT THE TRAPPED EXPLORER...
ABEL! LOOK BELOW! THE WHOLE PYRAMID IS FALLING!...THE GROUND IS SWALLOWING IT UP AND YOU ALONG WITH IT!
THE OUTER LIMITS
RRUMMBLE!

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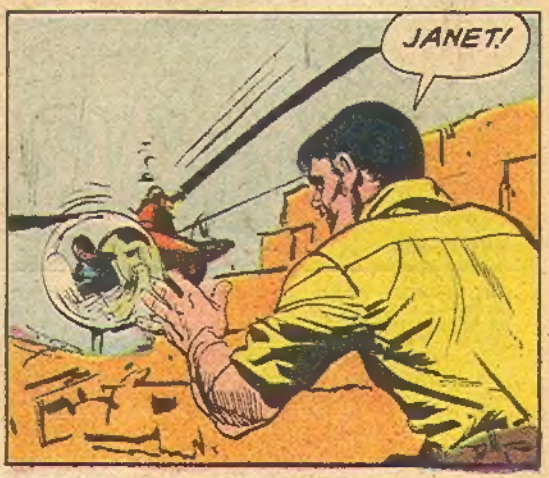
STUNNED, THE HELPLESS ARCHEOLOGIST GRABS THE TOP OF THE STRUCTURE THAT, BEFORE HIS VERY EYES, SINKS DEEPER INTO THE PARTING DESERT SANDS...

DESPERATELY, HE LUNGES FOR THE SWINGING CABLE...

BUT AS HIS ASSISTANT VAINLY TRIES TO SWING THE LINE NEARER, THE LOOP IS CAUGHT...

THEN A CONVULSIVE DROP PULLS THE LINE TAUT! THE 'COPTER IS YANKED DOWN...

THE CHURNING ROTORS STOP SWIRLING... AND DOWN COMES THE HELPLESS CRAFT...



ON DOWN, THE HUGE, ANCIENT STRUCTURE DESCENDS, AS ABEL DARE CLIMBS HOPEFULLY FOR THE DANGLING HELICOPTER...
I-I'M ALL RIGHT!
DON'T MOVE! I'M COMING FOR YOU!
TH-THANKS!
SAVE IT! YOU MAY BE OUT OF THE EGGBEATER, BUT WE'RE BOTH STILL ON THIS ROLLER COASTER AND IT'S STILL GOING DOWN!
WHERE DOES IT END? IT LOOKS LIKE A BOTTOMLESS PIT!
DOWN AND DOWN, THE STONE PYRAMID SLIDES IN A FANTASTIC DESCENT! ABOVE, THE LIGHT OF DAY VANISHES TO A DIM FILTERED RADIANCE...
I'VE BEEN TRYING TO MAKE AN ESTIMATE, JANET! WE'VE DROPPED WELL OVER-- THREE MILES!
AND WE'RE STILL FALLING!

FOR A SEEMING ETERNITY, THE TWO CLINGING ARCHEOLOGISTS HELPLESSLY WATCH AS THEY DROP DEEPER INTO THE EARTH'S CORE...

BUT BEFORE THEY CAN EXCHANGE ANOTHER WORD, THE STARTLING JOURNEY INTO THE EARTH ENDS WITH A THUD...

QUICKLY, THEY START DOWN THE PYRAMID'S SIDE...

F-FOR A MOMENT THEY LOOKED REAL!
AFTER WHAT WE'VE BEEN THROUGH, NO WONDER YOU WERE UPSET BY THAT ANCIENT PAINTING!...THAT'S ALL IT IS!

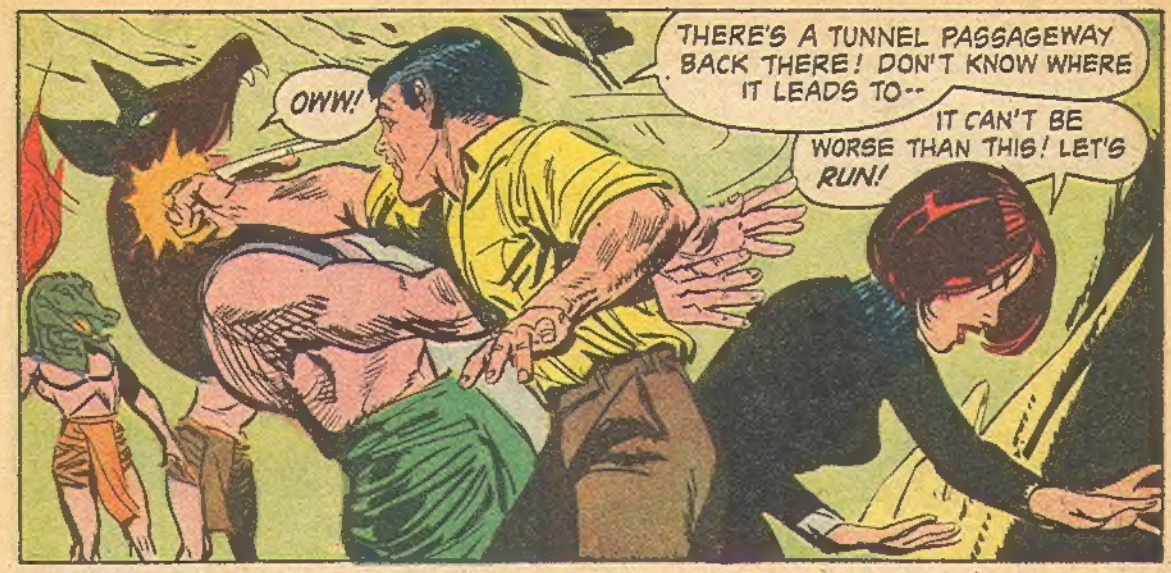
BUT WASN'T THE PURPOSE OF YOUR EXPEDITION TO TRY TO PROVE YOUR THEORY THAT ONCE THESE CREATURE REALLY EXISTED?
YES, BUT DON'T LET A MERE THEORY THROW YOU!

YOU'RE RIGHT! THEY'RE JUST THE NIGHTMARE IMAGININGS OF SOME LONG DEAD ARTISTS!
I WON'T GO THAT FAR, BUT I WILL SAY IF SUCH MUTATIONS EVER DID EXIST--THEY DIED 4,000 YEARS AGO IN THE DAYS WHEN THIS FRIEZE WAS PAINTED!

HURRY! GET OUT OF HERE! THIS WHOLE PYRAMID IS COMING APART AT THE SEAMS!

LOOK! NOW TELL ME IF IT'S STILL ONLY A THEORY!

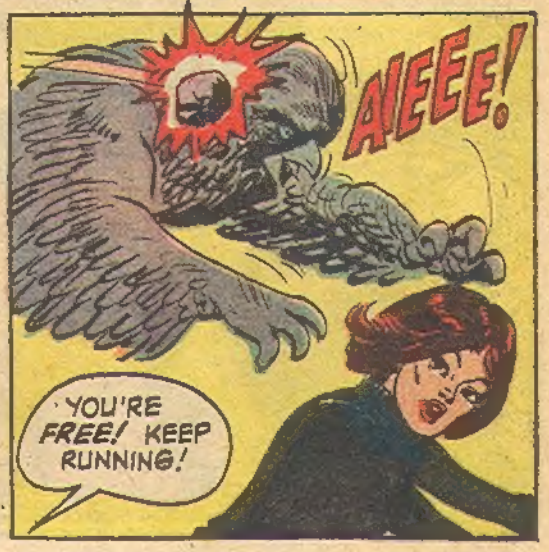
PARALYZED BY FRIGHT AND DISBELIEF, THE TWO SCIENTISTS GAPE AT THE FIGURES ADVANCING TOWARD THEM...
UNLESS THE FALL KNOCKED US UNCONSCIOUS AND I'M DREAMING--THOSE CREATURES ARE ALIVE!
TERRESTRIALS! HOW DID THEY DESCEND TO OUR WORLD? ARE THERE MORE? WE NEED THE ANSWERS! SEIZE THEM!
HEADLESS MEN!
THEN IT'S TRUE! SIX HUNDRED YEARS AGO THE GREAT TRAVELER, MANDEVILLE, WROTE OF THEM!
SCIAPODES! THE ONE-LEGGED RACE OF MEN THE ANCIENT GREEK WRITER, PLINY, DESCRIBED! WE MUST BE IMAGINING THIS!
N-NO! THIS MONSTER'S HANDS FEEL REAL ENOUGH! MAKE HIM LET ME GO!


OWW!
THERE'S A TUNNEL PASSAGEWAY BACK THERE! DON'T KNOW WHERE IT LEADS TO--
IT CAN'T BE WORSE THAN THIS! LET'S RUN!

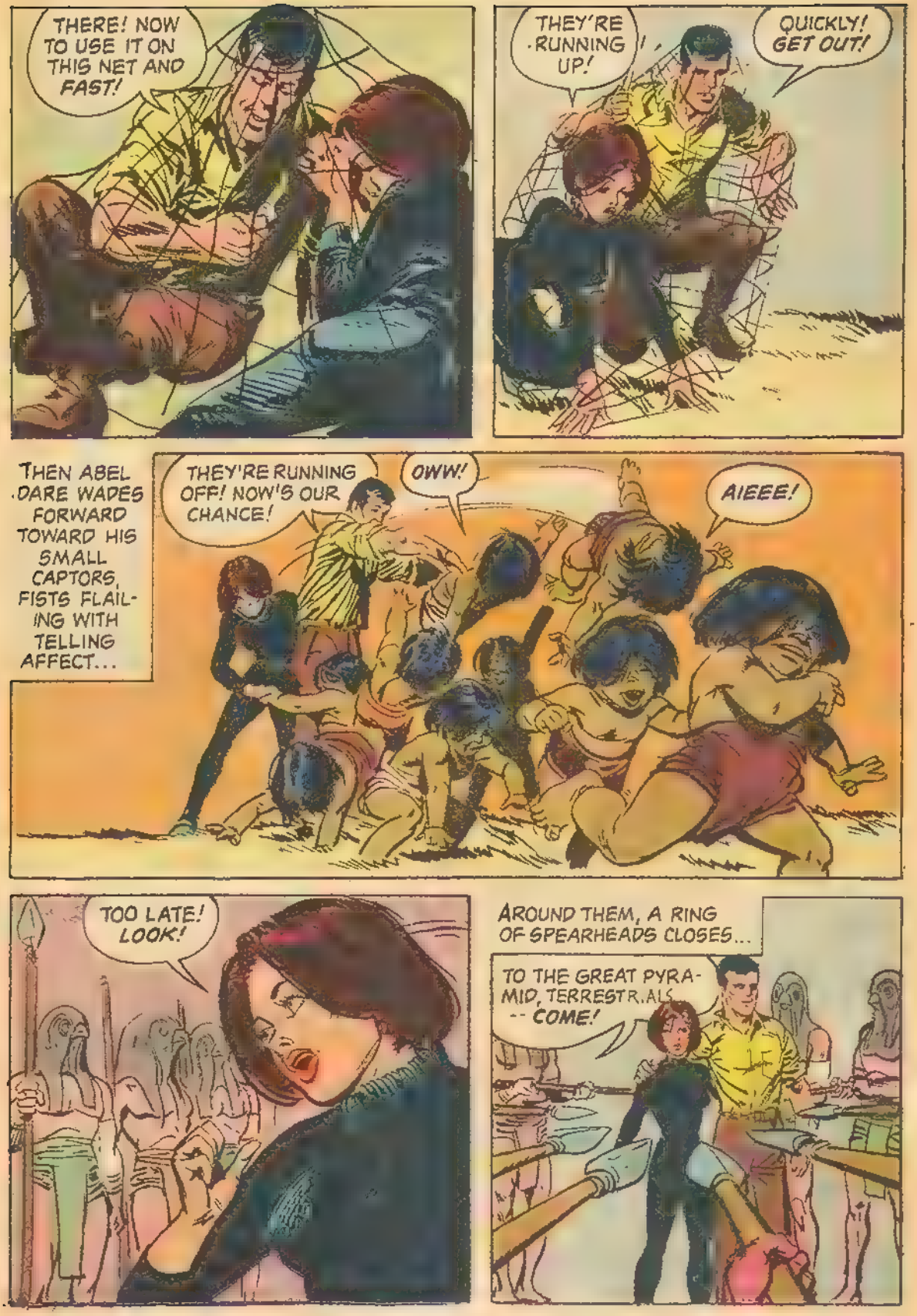
IT LOOKS LIKE IT COULD GO ON FOREVER!

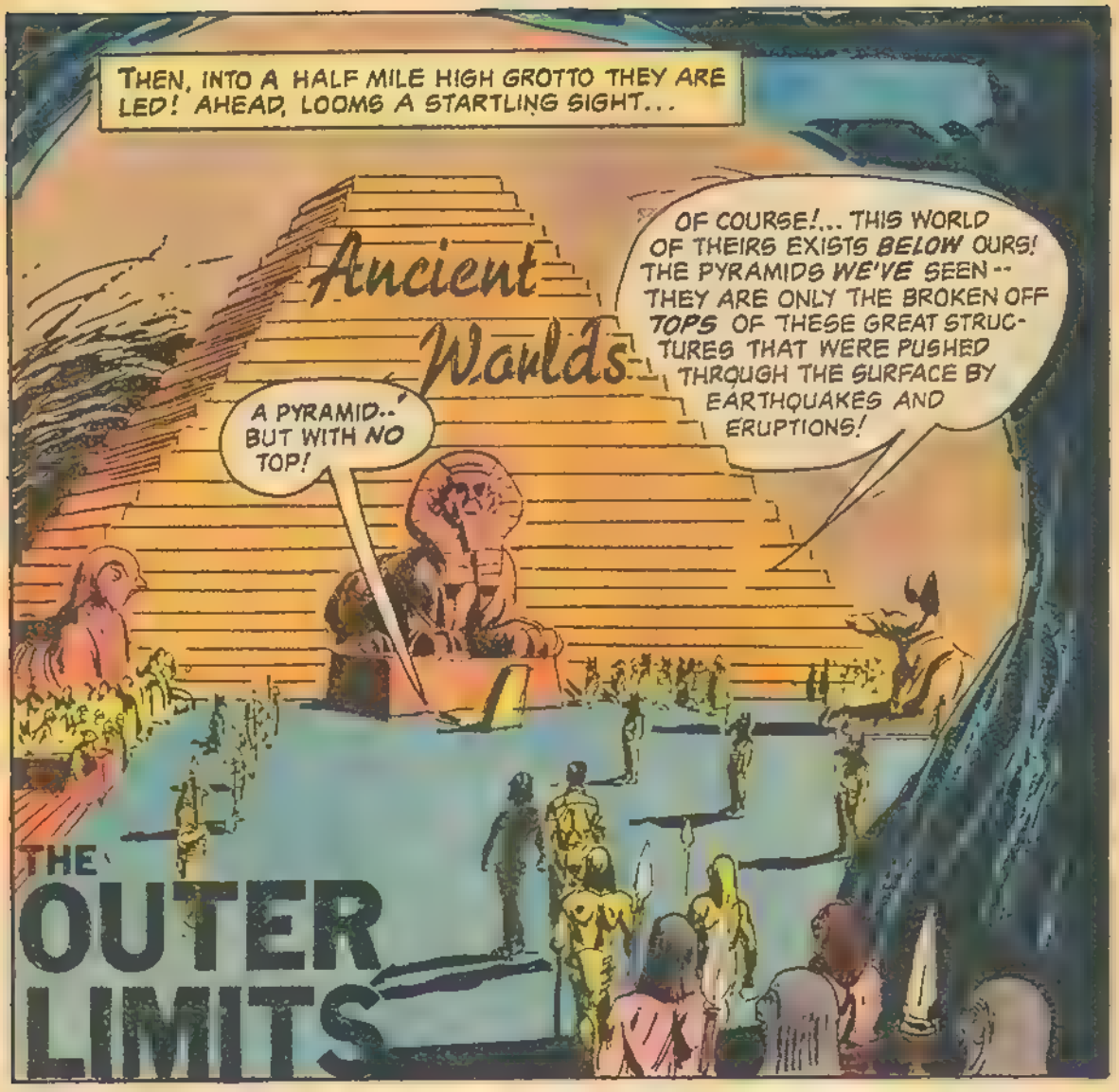
THAT CREATURE'S FLYING THIS WAY! WATCH OUT!

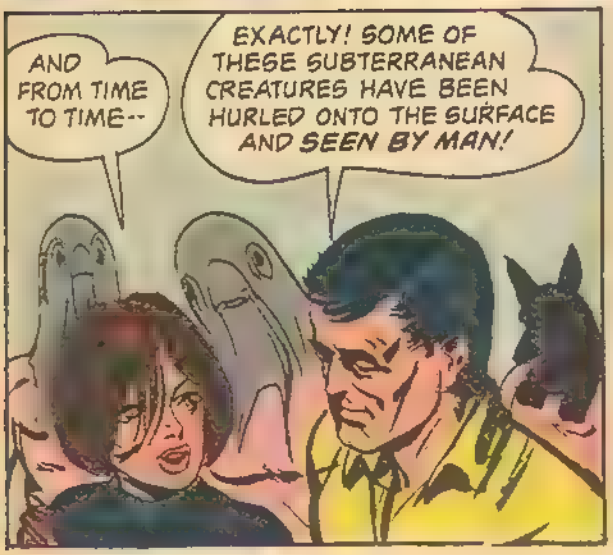
I'VE ONLY ONE CHANCE TO MAKE A STRIKE!

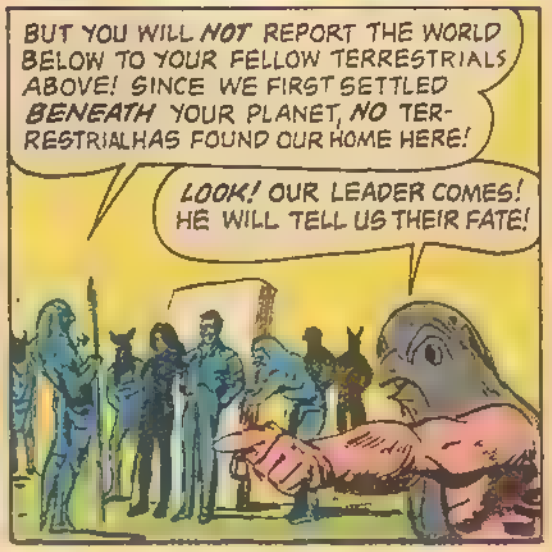

AIEEE!
YOU'RE FREE! KEEP RUNNING!

IT'S FUTILE! WE DON'T KNOW WHERE WE ARE HEADING--
WE'RE NOT GIVING UP WITHOUT GIVING IT A TRY! KEEP GOING!
ABEL! DO YOU--
YES! THAT ONE HORN IS UNMISTAKABLE! IT'S A UNICORN!
THEN SUDDENLY...
ABEL, WHAT--
WATCH OUT!! WE'RE CAUGHT!
OWW!
WHO THE DEVIL THREW THIS NET?
PYGMIES!
LOOK CLOSELY AT THEM! THEY MATCH THE PYGMIES DRAWN 5,000 YEARS AGO ON THE EGYPTIAN TOMBS OF SAQQARA!


THERE! NOW TO USE IT ON THIS NET AND FAST!
THEY'RE RUNNING UP!
QUICKLY! GET OUT!
THEN ABEL DARE WADES FORWARD TOWARD HIS SMALL CAPTORS, FISTS FLAILING WITH TELLING AFFECT...
THEY'RE RUNNING OFF! NOW'S OUR CHANCE!
OWW!
AIEEE!
TOO LATE! LOOK!
AROUND THEM, A RING OF SPEARHEADS CLOSES...
TO THE GREAT PYRAMID, TERRESTRIALS -- COME!

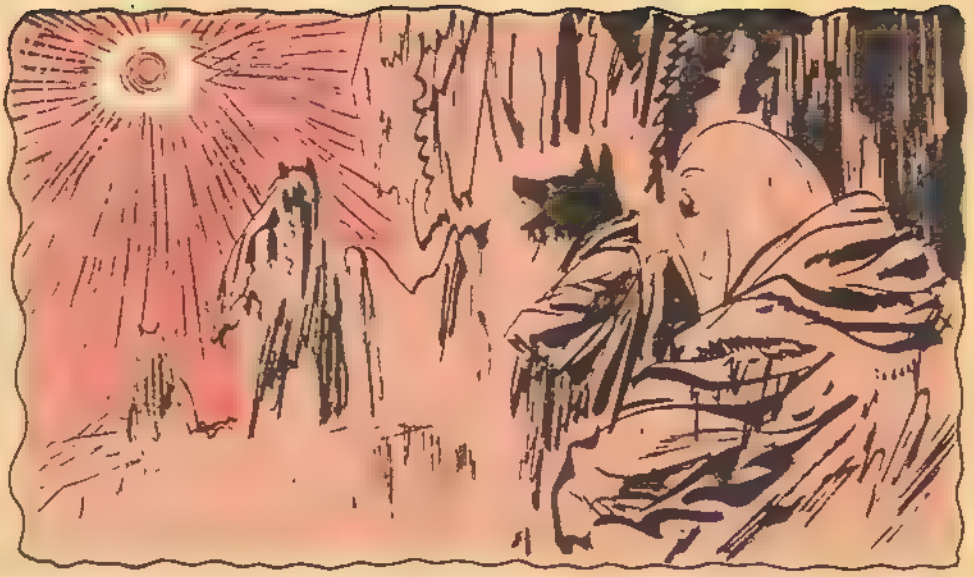

THEN, INTO A HALF MILE HIGH GROTTO THEY ARE LED! AHEAD, LOOMS A STARTLING SIGHT...
Ancient Worlds
A PYRAMID--BUT WITH NO TOP!
OF COURSE!... THIS WORLD OF THEIRS EXISTS BELOW OURS! THE PYRAMIDS WE'VE SEEN -- THEY ARE ONLY THE BROKEN OFF TOPS OF THESE GREAT STRUCTURES THAT WERE PUSHED THROUGH THE SURFACE BY EARTHQUAKES AND ERUPTIONS!
THE OUTER LIMITS


AND FROM TIME TO TIME--
EXACTLY! SOME OF THESE SUBTERRANEAN CREATURES HAVE BEEN HURLED ONTO THE SURFACE AND SEEN BY MAN!


BUT YOU WILL NOT REPORT THE WORLD BELOW TO YOUR FELLOW TERRESTRIALS ABOVE! SINCE WE FIRST SETTLED BENEATH YOUR PLANET, NO TERRESTRIALHAS FOUND OUR HOME HERE!
LOOK! OUR LEADER COMES! HE WILL TELL US THEIR FATE!

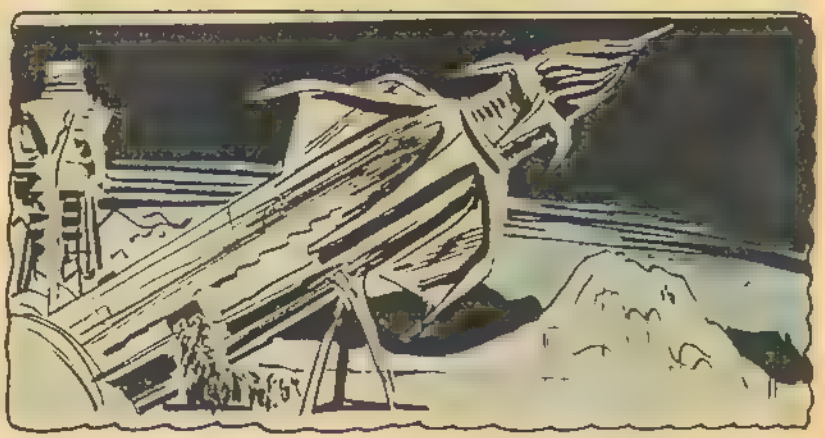
AROUND THE ASTOUNDED ARCHEOLOGISTS, THE FANTASTIC ANIMAL-HUMANS BOW TO THEIR APPROACHING LEADER...
THE SPHINX!
THAT EXPLAINS WHY HIS STATUE IS THE LARGEST SINGLE ONE WE'VE EVER FOUND! BUT ACCORDING TO LEGEND, ANSWERING HIS QUESTIONS CAN BE FATAL!
TERRESTRIALS, I AM THE RULER OF THIS UNDERGROUND KINGDOM! I HAVE COME TO ASK YOU A QUESTION!
I'LL ANSWER ALL YOUR QUESTIONS IF YOU ANSWER MINE! WHERE DID YOUR PEOPLE COME FROM?
A WISE QUESTION! WE COME NOT FROM YOUR EARTH'S CENTER NOR FROM ITS SURFACE--

"OUR HOME IS A PLANET ONE SUN BEYOND YOUR GALAXY'S SUN! THERE, THE MANY RACES OF OUR PLANET LIVED IN HARMONY..."

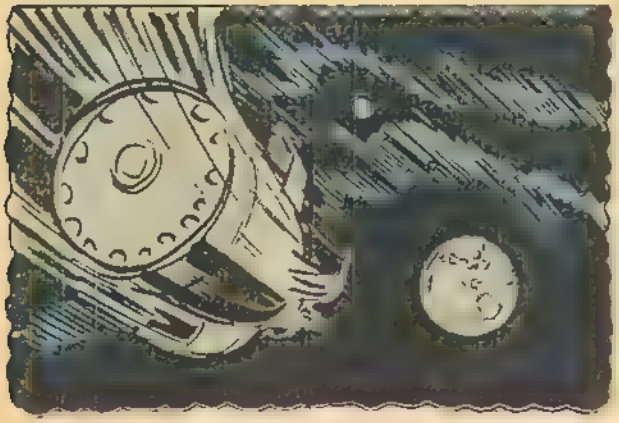


"BUT OUR SUN-STAR WAS DYING! THE WORLD ABOUT US GREW COLD! LIFE WAS DYING OFF."

"WORKING WITH DESPERATE HASTE, OUR GREATEST SCIENTISTS CAME OUT WITH A GIANT CRAFT TO SAIL ACROSS THE SPACE VOID! INTO IT WENT TWO REPRESENTATIVES OF EACH RACE ... THE REST WERE DOOMED. ."

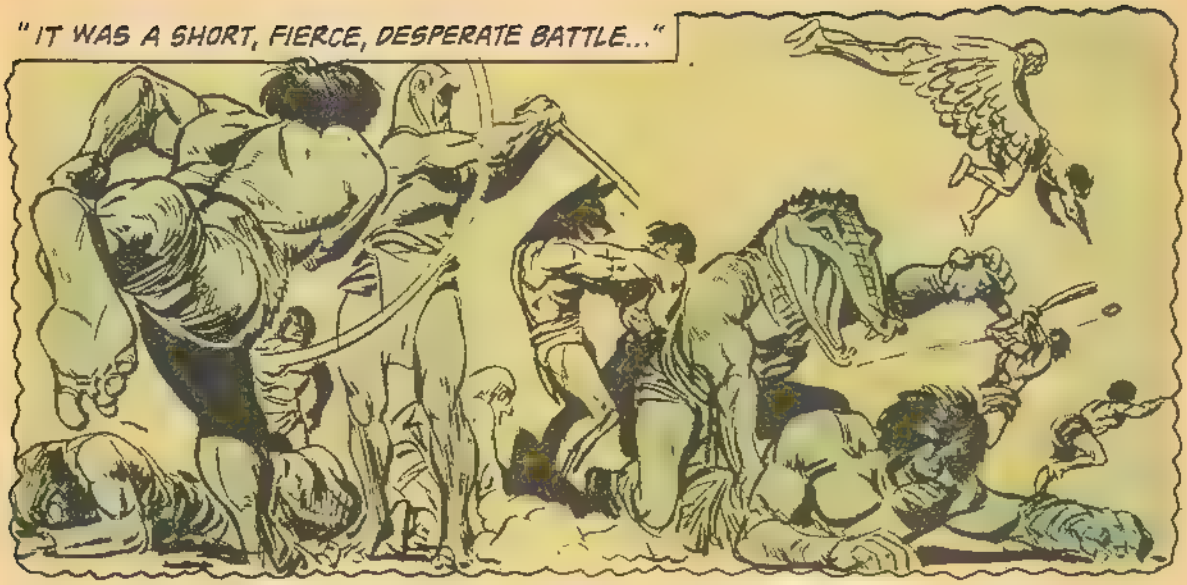


"FAR ACROSS THE BLACK SPACE THE CRAFT RANGED, SEEKING A HOME THAT COULD SUSTAIN US! ONLY ONE PLANET COULD ANSWER OUR LIFE-NEEDS -- YOURS..."



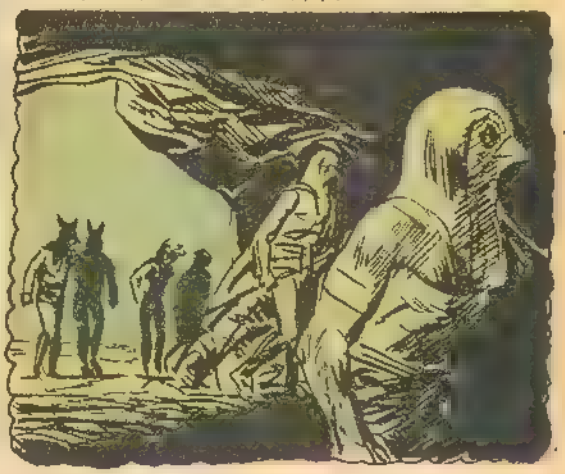
"WHEN WE LEFT OUR CRAFT, THE SAVAGE INHABITANTS OF YOUR WORLD ATTACKED.."

"IT WAS A SHORT, FIERCE, DESPERATE BATTLE..."

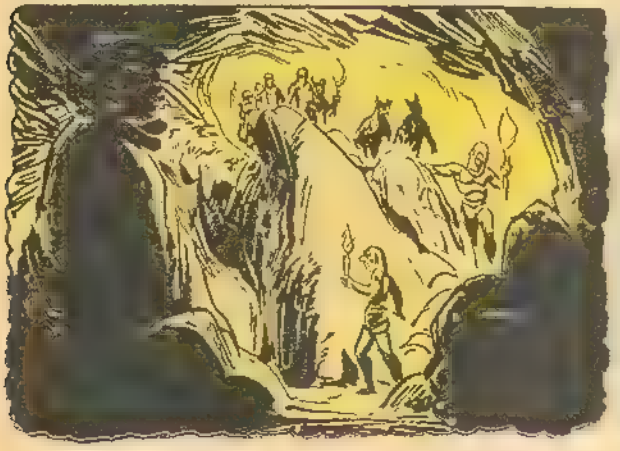


"BUT OUR ANCESTORS WON! THE RIGHT TO SETTLE YOUR PLANET WAS NOW OURS..."

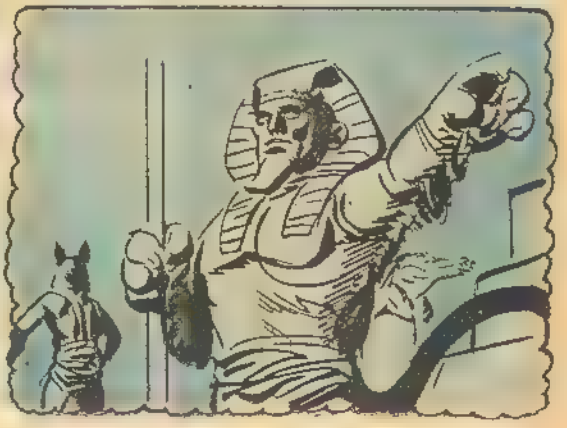
"OUR BODY CHEMISTRY REQUIRES NO EXPOSURE TO DIRECT SUNLIGHT!... CAVERNS WERE OUR FIRST HOMES..."

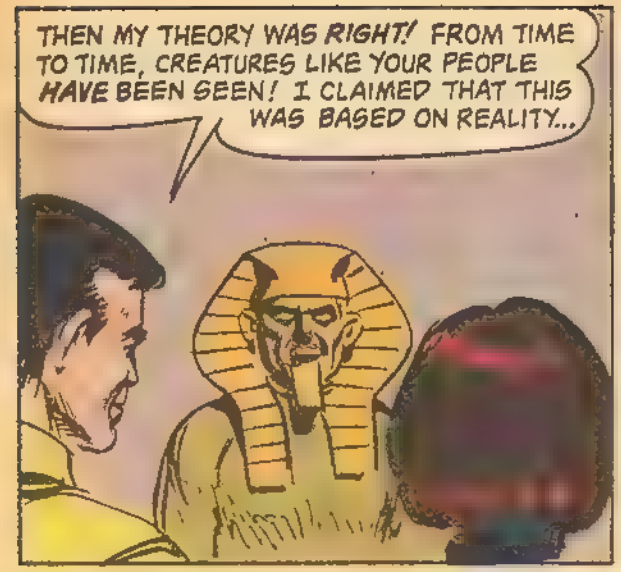


"IN TIME, WE FOUND WAYS DOWN INTO THE DEPTHS OF YOUR WORLD, INTO THE STILL SOFT, SHIFTING, WARM LAYERS BELOW...



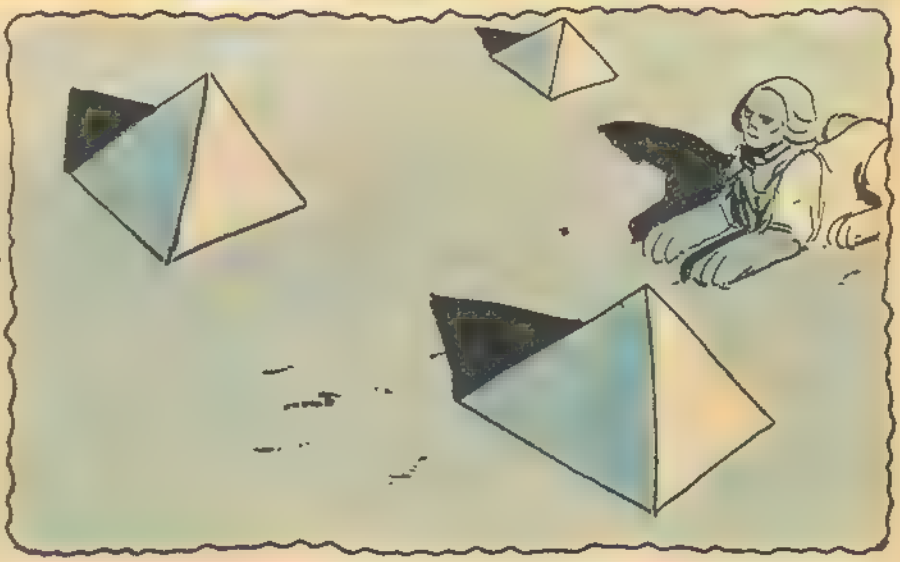
"AFTER GREAT EXPLORATIONS, WE FOUND THIS GIANT CAVERN FAR BELOW! FROM HERE, OTHER RACES OF OURS SPREAD OUT TO DIFFERENT SUBTERRANEAN CAVES..."



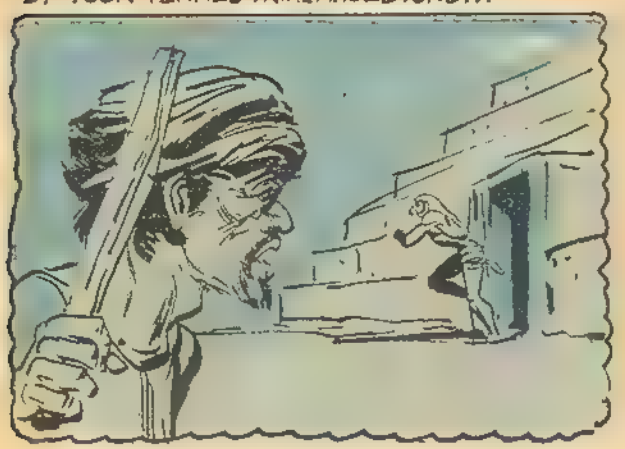

THEN MY THEORY WAS RIGHT! FROM TIME TO TIME, CREATURES LIKE YOUR PEOPLE HAVE BEEN SEEN! I CLAIMED THAT THIS WAS BASED ON REALITY...

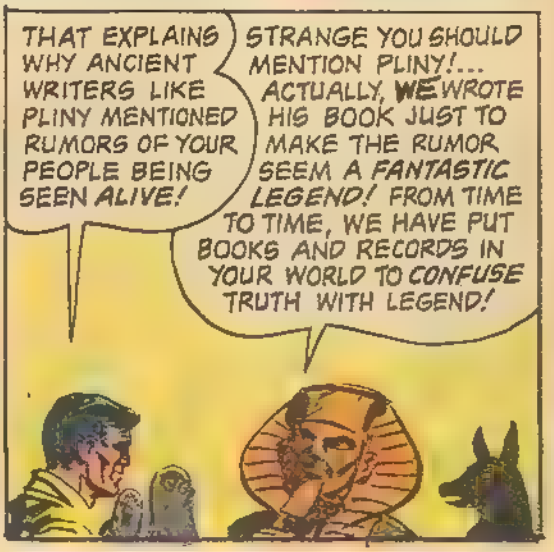
...NOT ON MAN'S IMAGINATION! BUT I NEVER DREAMED THERE WAS A WORLD BELOW OURS! NOW I KNOW WHAT FORCED YOU TO BE SEEN-- EARTHQUAKES AND ERUPTIONS!

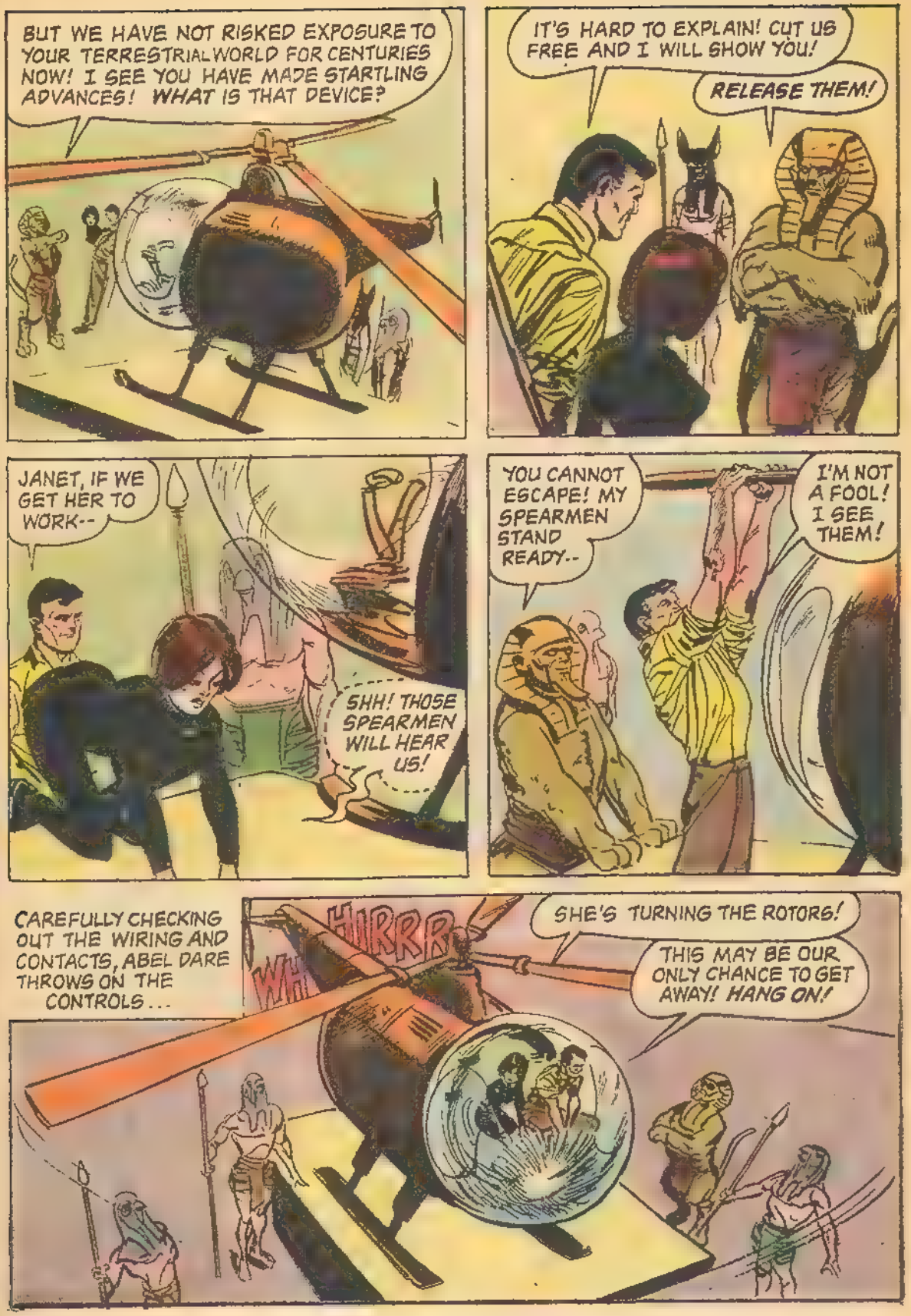
"YOU ARE CORRECT! GIANT UPHEAVALS IN THE DEPTHS OF EARTH HAVE SHATTERED OUR GREAT WORKS! THE TOPS OF SOME OF OUR PYRAMIDS HAVE BEEN BROKEN OFF AND FORCED TO THE SURFACE! OTHER TIMES, WHOLE STATUES WERE PUSHED UP BY A SUDDEN SHIFT IN THE ROCK-BED MANY MILES BELOW..."



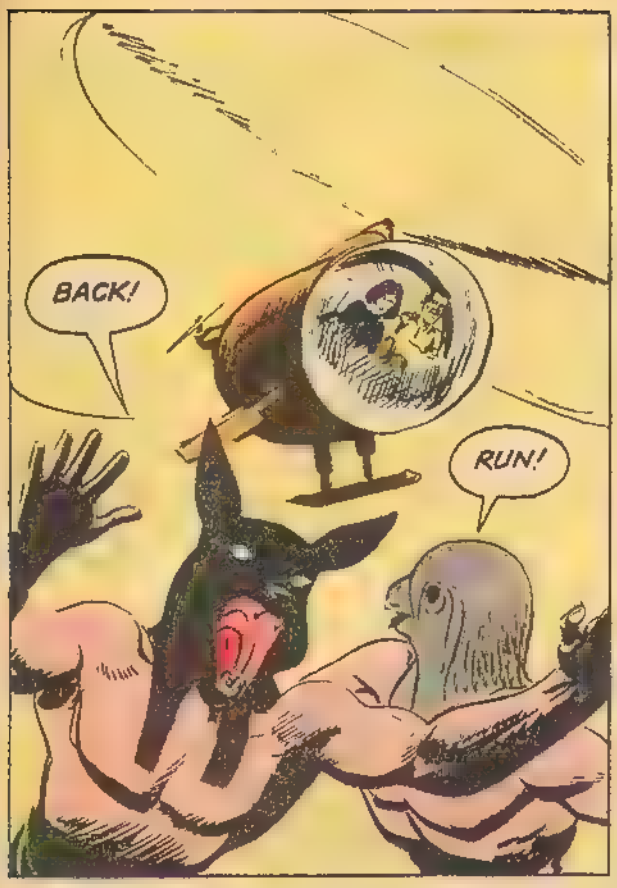
"ON RARE OCCASIONS, OUR WORKMEN WERE TRAPPED IN THE MONUMENTS AND WERE SEEN BY YOUR TERRESTRIAL ANCESTORS..."



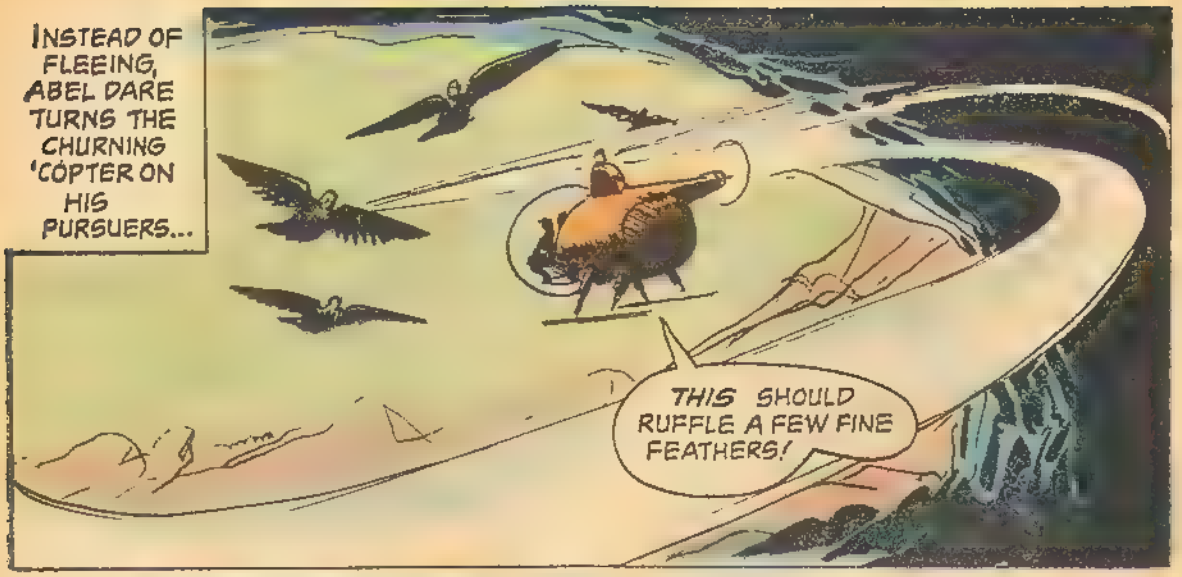

THAT EXPLAINS WHY ANCIENT WRITERS LIKE PLINY MENTIONED RUMORS OF YOUR PEOPLE BEING SEEN ALIVE!
STRANGE YOU SHOULD MENTION PLINY!... ACTUALLY, WE WROTE HIS BOOK JUST TO MAKE THE RUMOR SEEM A FANTASTIC LEGEND! FROM TIME TO TIME, WE HAVE PUT BOOKS AND RECORDS IN YOUR WORLD TO CONFUSE TRUTH WITH LEGEND!

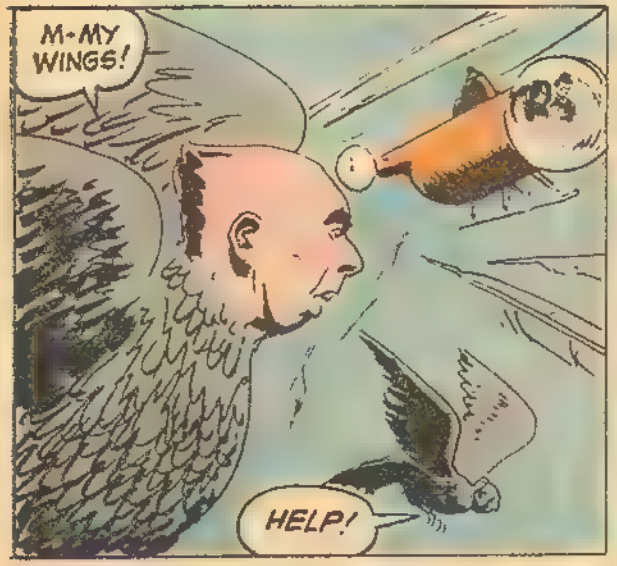

BUT WE HAVE NOT RISKED EXPOSURE TO YOUR TERRESTRIAL WORLD FOR CENTURIES NOW! I SEE YOU HAVE MADE STARTLING ADVANCES! WHAT IS THAT DEVICE?
IT'S HARD TO EXPLAIN! CUT US FREE AND I WILL SHOW YOU!
RELEASE THEM!
JANET, IF WE GET HER TO WORK--
SHH! THOSE SPEARMEN WILL HEAR US!
YOU CANNOT ESCAPE! MY SPEARMEN STAND READY--
I'M NOT A FOOL! I SEE THEM!
CAREFULLY CHECKING OUT THE WIRING AND CONTACTS, ABEL DARE THROWS ON THE CONTROLS...
WH
HIRRR
SHE'S TURNING THE ROTORS!
THIS MAY BE OUR ONLY CHANCE TO GET AWAY! HANG ON!

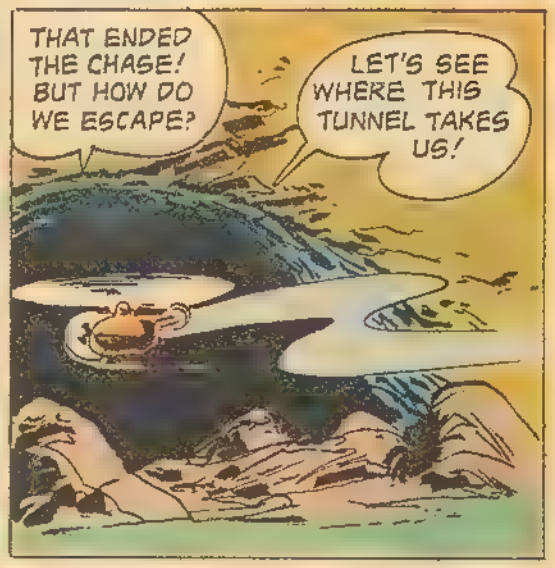
THE DEVICE MOVES! STOP THEM!
HE'S REACHING FOR YOU, ABEL! WATCH OUT!
OWW!
LET HIM WATCH OUT!
OUR LEADER--
SLAY THEM! HURRY!
GET US UP FAST!
STOP THEM!
LET'S SEE IF FULL POWER CAN GET RID OF SOME OF THE HARDWARE THEY'RE THROWING OUR WAY!
J-JUST GET US AWAY FROM THESE MONSTERS!

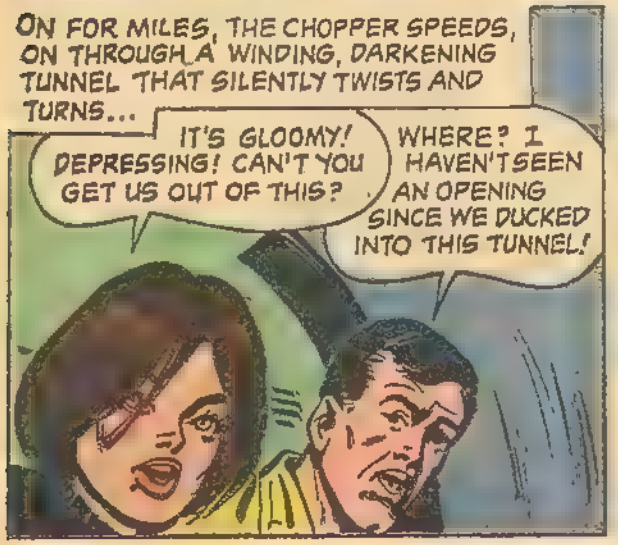


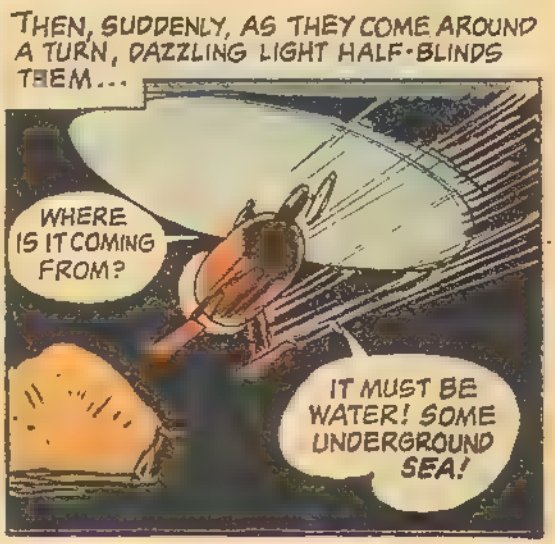
AT THE SPHINX'S COMMAND, THERE IS AN ANGRY WHIRRING OF STARTLING WINGS...

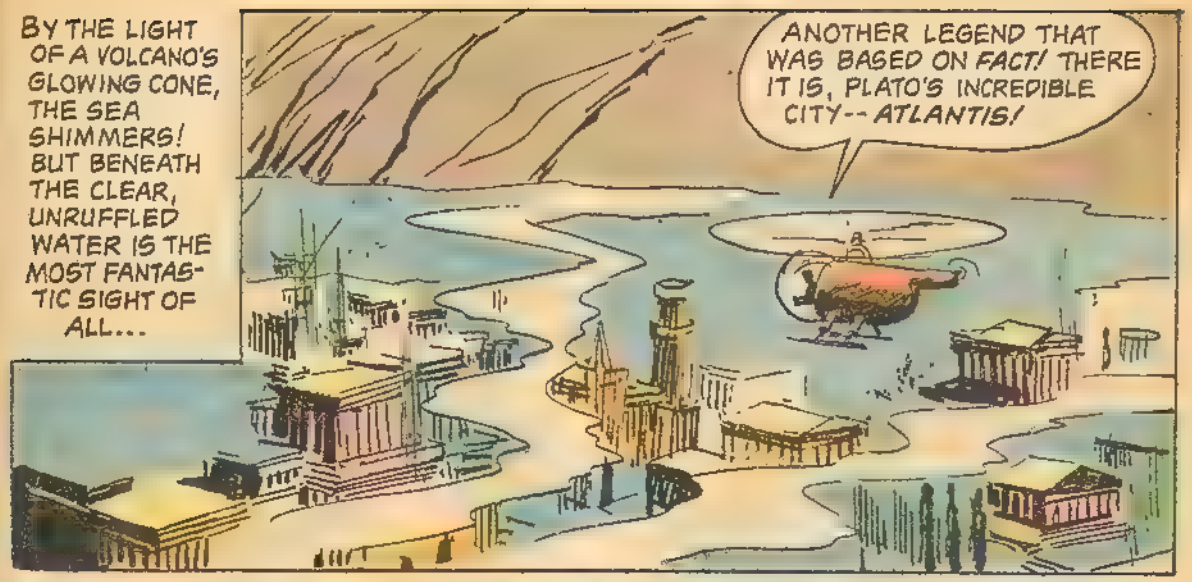

INSTEAD OF FLEEING, ABEL DARE TURNS THE CHURNING 'COPTER ON HIS PURSUERS...
THIS SHOULD RUFFLE A FEW FINE FEATHERS!

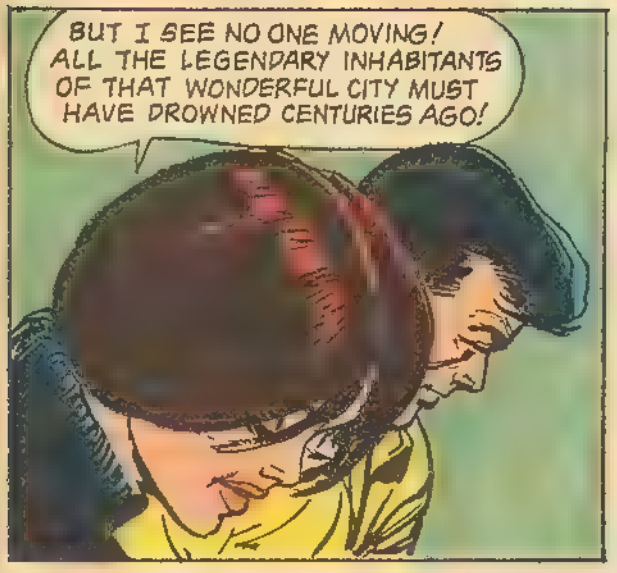

M-MY WINGS!
HELP!


THAT ENDED THE CHASE! BUT HOW DO WE ESCAPE?
LET'S SEE WHERE THIS TUNNEL TAKES US!

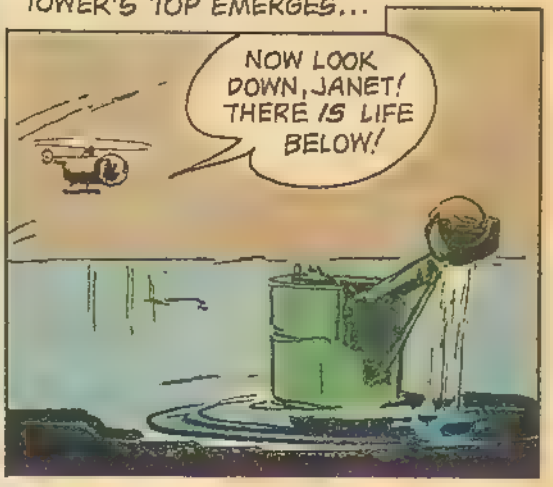

ON FOR MILES, THE CHOPPER SPEEDS, ON THROUGH A WINDING, DARKENING TUNNEL THAT SILENTLY TWISTS AND TURNS...
IT'S GLOOMY! DEPRESSING! CAN'T YOU GET US OUT OF THIS?
WHERE? I HAVEN'T SEEN AN OPENING SINCE WE DUCKED INTO THIS TUNNEL!


THEN, SUDDENLY, AS THEY COME AROUND A TURN, DAZZLING LIGHT HALF-BLINDS THEM...
WHERE IS IT COMING FROM?
IT MUST BE WATER! SOME UNDERGROUND SEA!

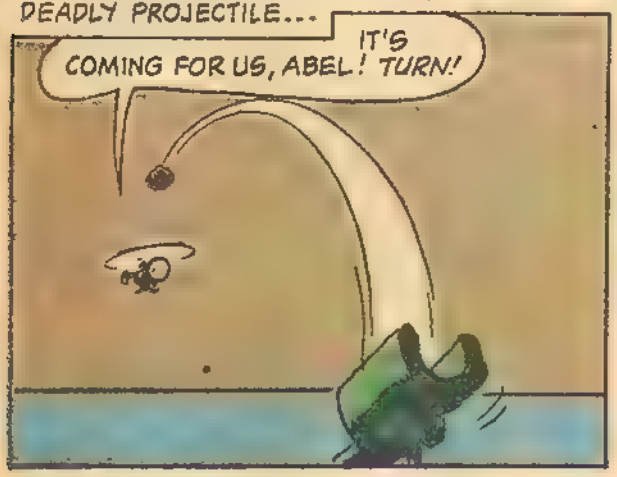

BY THE LIGHT OF A VOLCANO'S GLOWING CONE, THE SEA SHIMMERS! BUT BENEATH THE CLEAR, UNRUFFLED WATER IS THE MOST FANTASTIC SIGHT OF ALL...
ANOTHER LEGEND THAT WAS BASED ON FACT! THERE IT IS, PLATO'S INCREDIBLE CITY-- ATLANTIS!

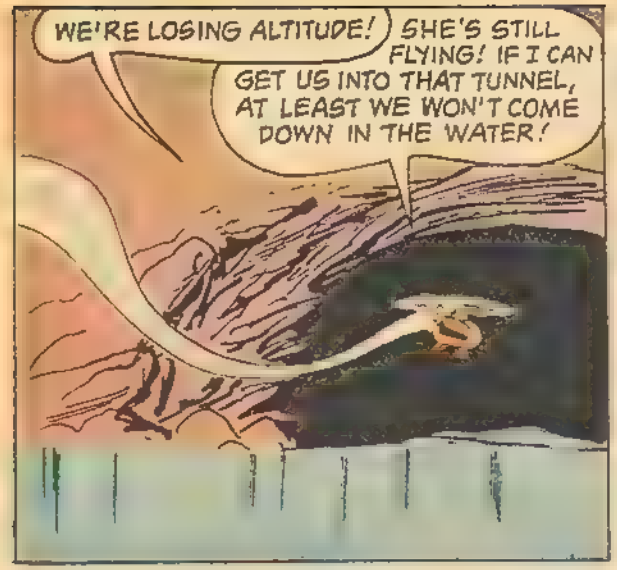


SUDDENLY, THERE IS A STIRRING BELOW THE WATER! THROUGH THE SURFACE, A TOWER'S TOP EMERGES...



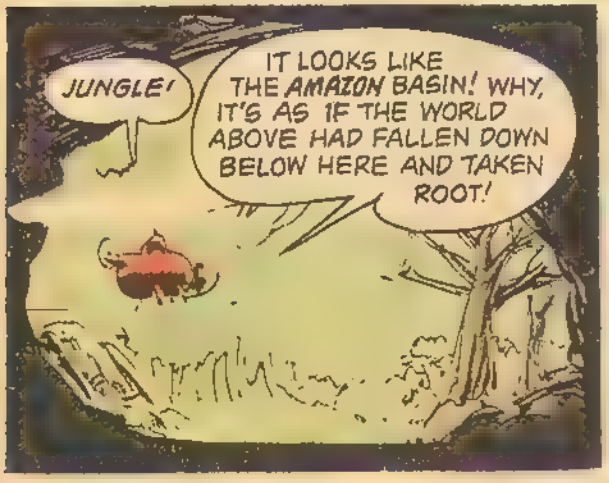
UNSEEN WARRIORS MAN A POWERFUL CATAPULT! ITS ARM SNAPS UPWARD, HURLING A DEADLY PROJECTILE...

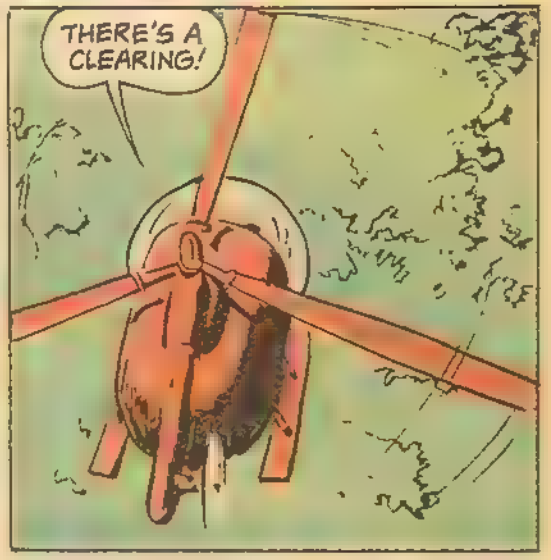


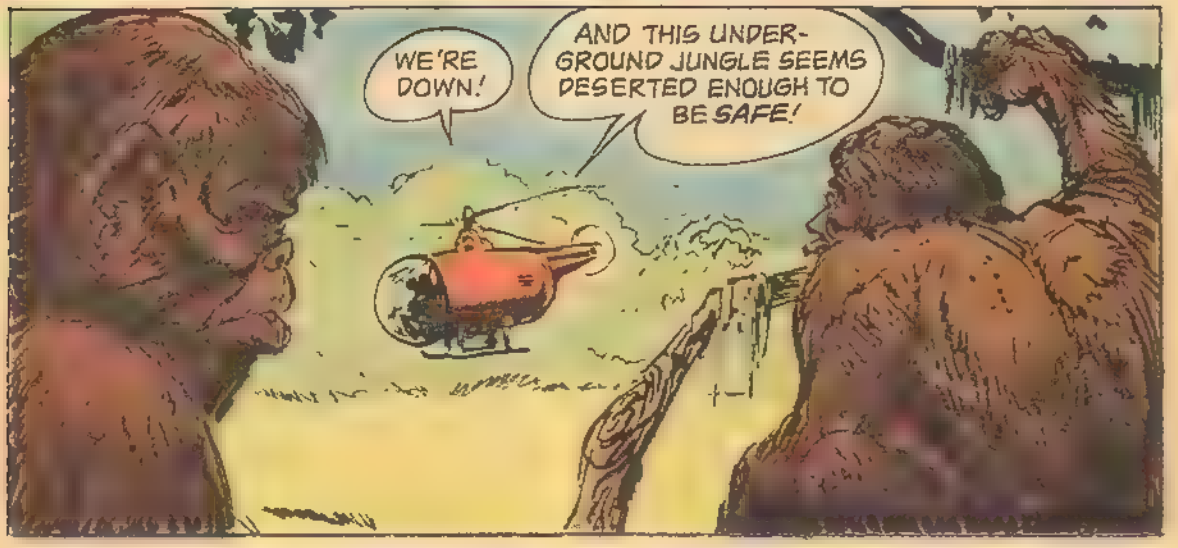


VALIANTLY, THE 'COPTER LIMPS ON..

SOON AFTER, THE CRIPPLED 'COPTER CHUGS OUT OF THE LONG PASSAGEWAY...

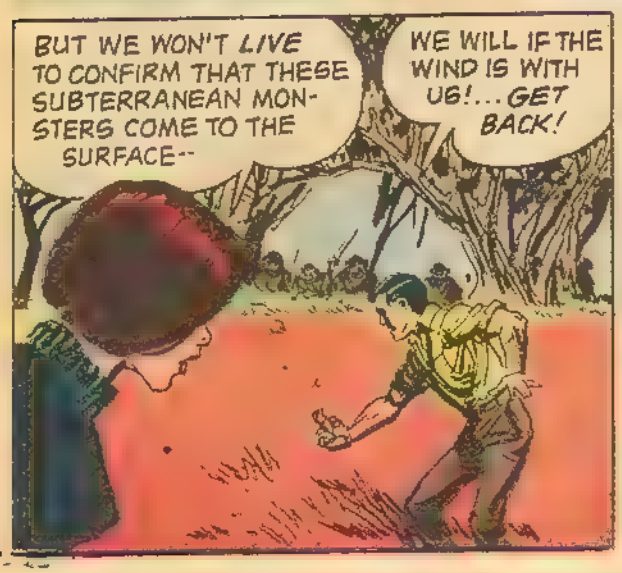


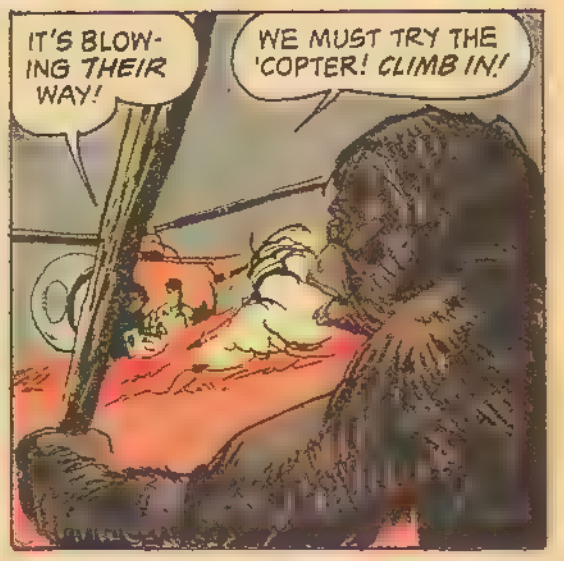




Living Legends

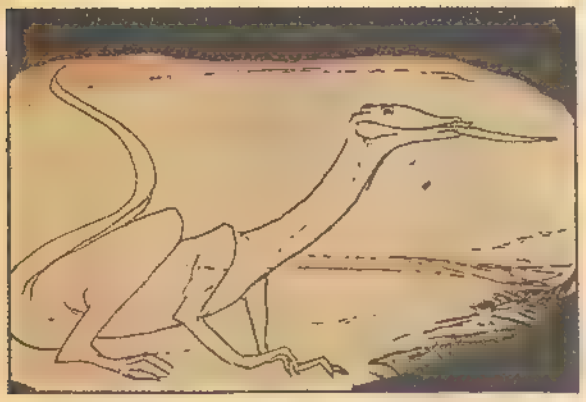
FOR AN HOUR, THE HAIRY, HUMAN-LIKE APE CREATURES STUDY THE BUSY INTRUDERS! ABEL DARE AND JANET BLIGH WORK ON, REPAIRING THE BROKEN ROTOR IN THE SEEMING SAFETY OF A CLEARING IN THE WORLD BELOW THEIR WORLD, WHEN SUDDENLY, SAVAGE GRUNTS FILL THE AIR WITH CHALLENGE AND THREAT...
GR-RRRR-RR!
ABEL-- L-LOOK!
COLONEL FAWCETT WAS RIGHT! BACK IN 1916, HE WROTE THAT HAIRY APE-MEN LIVED IN THE UNEXPLORED AMAZON!
APE-MEN!
THE OUTER LIMITS

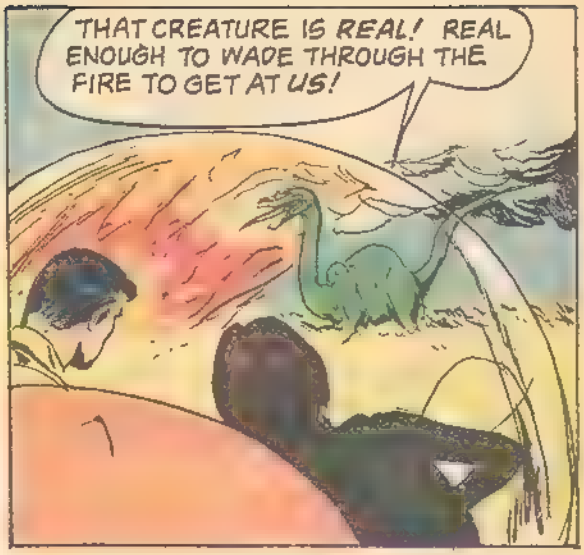


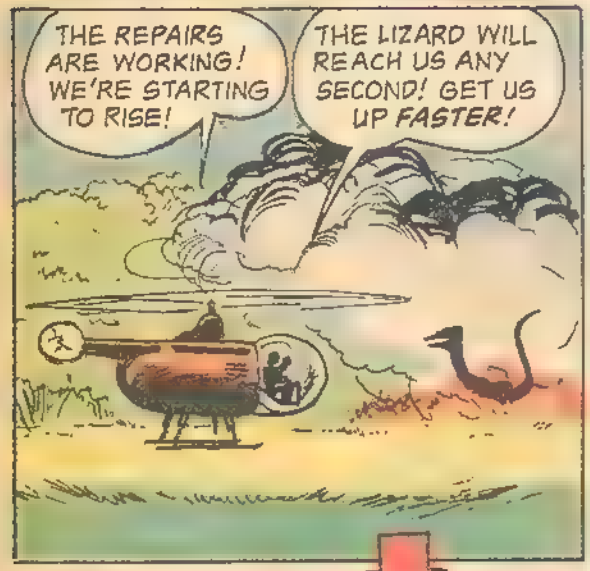


THEY'RE HURLING THEIR CLUBS AT US!
RUN!
THE FLAMES ARE KEEPING THEM BACK FOR THE MOMENT, JANET!
ARRR!
WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR? GET IN!
ABEL, LOOK AT THE GROUND HERE!
IT'S SOME SORT OF A MONSTER'S TRACKS AND THEY LOOK AS THOUGH THEY'D BEEN MADE WITHIN THE HOUR!
WHILE THE APE-MEN ARE DRIVEN BACK BY THE SWEEPING FLAME, THE BLAZE STRIKES THE JUNGLE, FORCING A SLEEPY DWELLER OUT OF HIS HIDDEN LAIR...

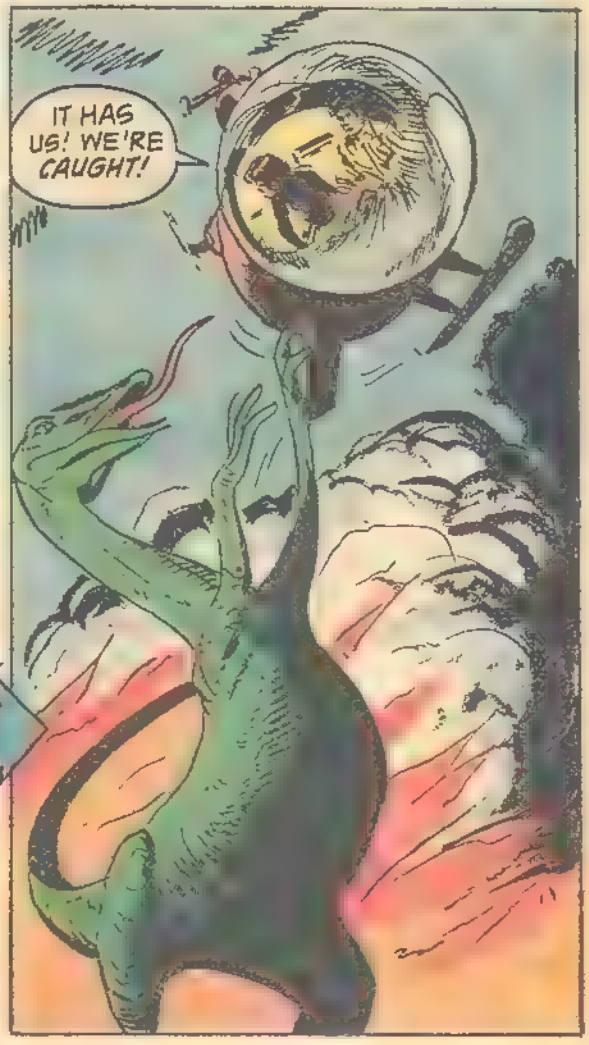
"NOW I REMEMBER A MUSEUM EXHIBIT OF A ROCK FROM THE AMAZON, JANET! THE CRUDE CARVING SHOWED JUST SUCH A MONSTER! EVERYONE SAID IT WAS SOME PRIMITIVE NATIVE'S WILD CREATION.."



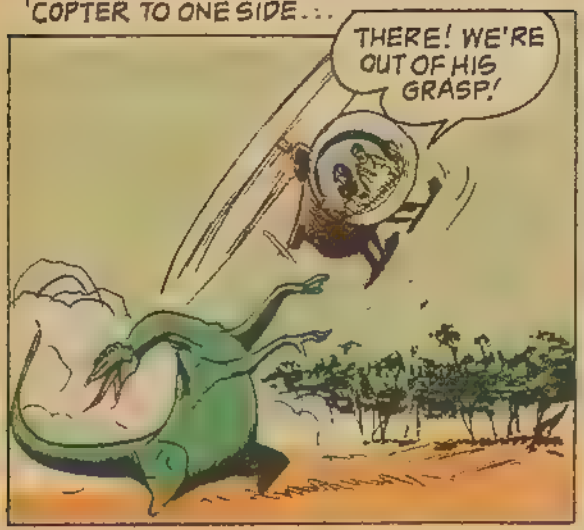




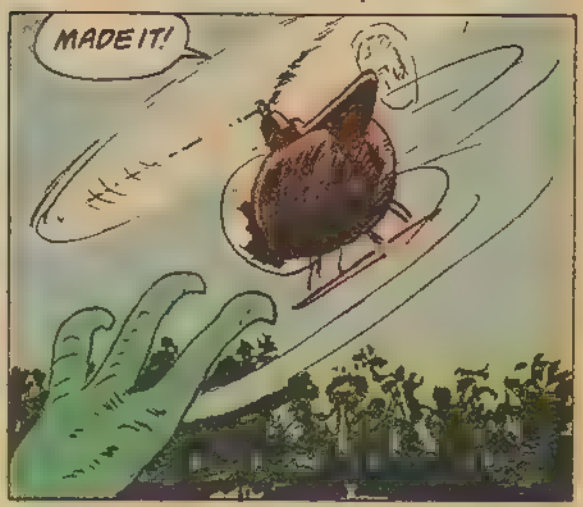
THEN THE LOATHSOME MONSTER REARS! ITS CLAWS STRETCH UPWARD, SCRATCHING THE SLOWLY RISING HELICOPTER'S BODY!



DESPERATELY, ABEL DARE JINKS THE 'COPTER TO ONE SIDE...

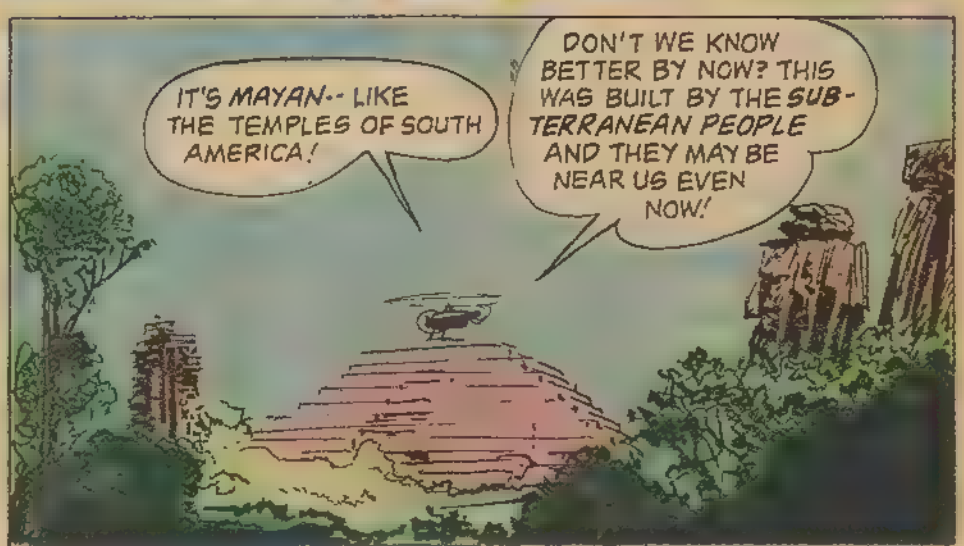


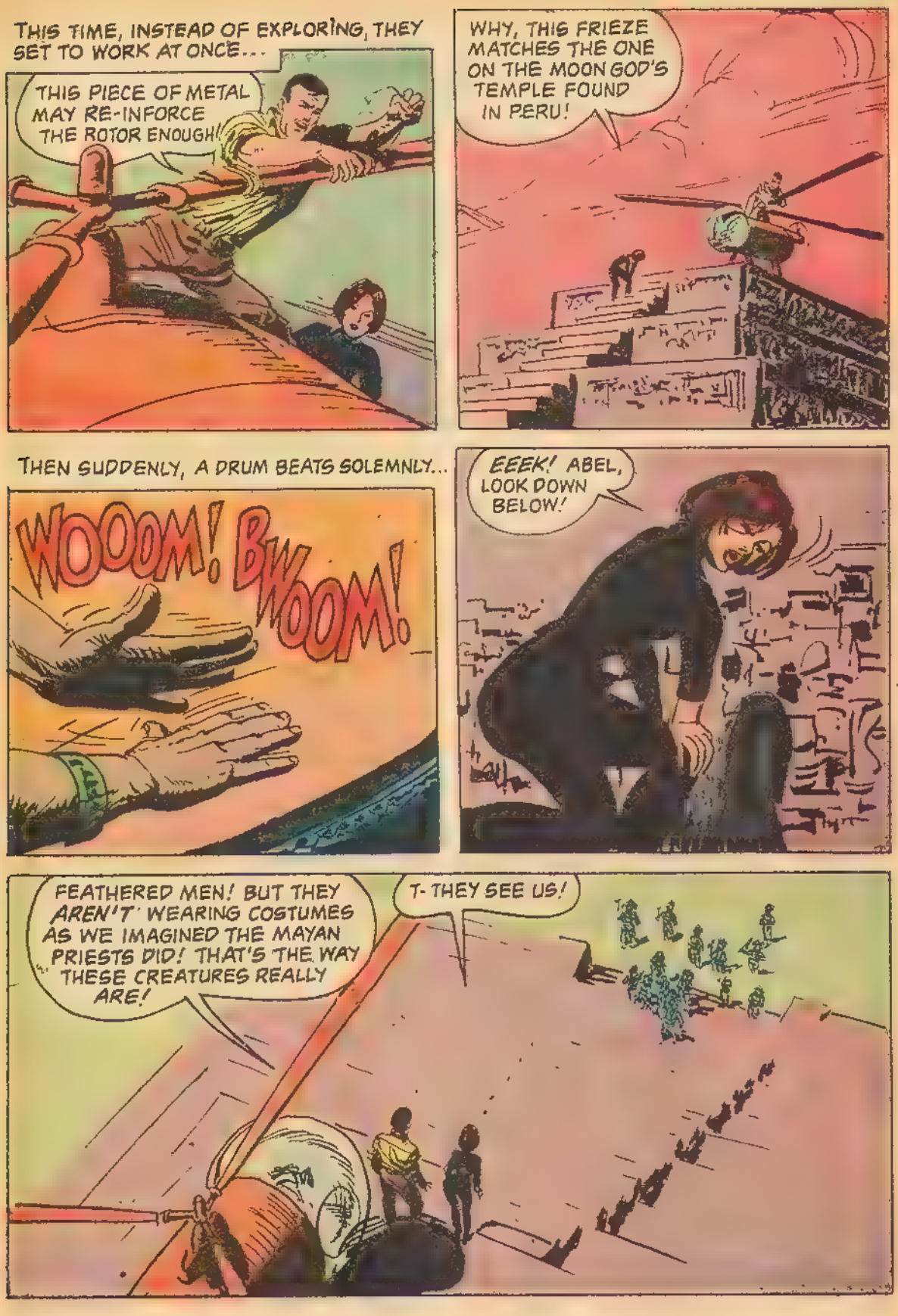
A SUDDEN POWER BOOST AND THE 'COPTER LEAPS ABOVE THE FIERCE, SEEKING CLAWS...

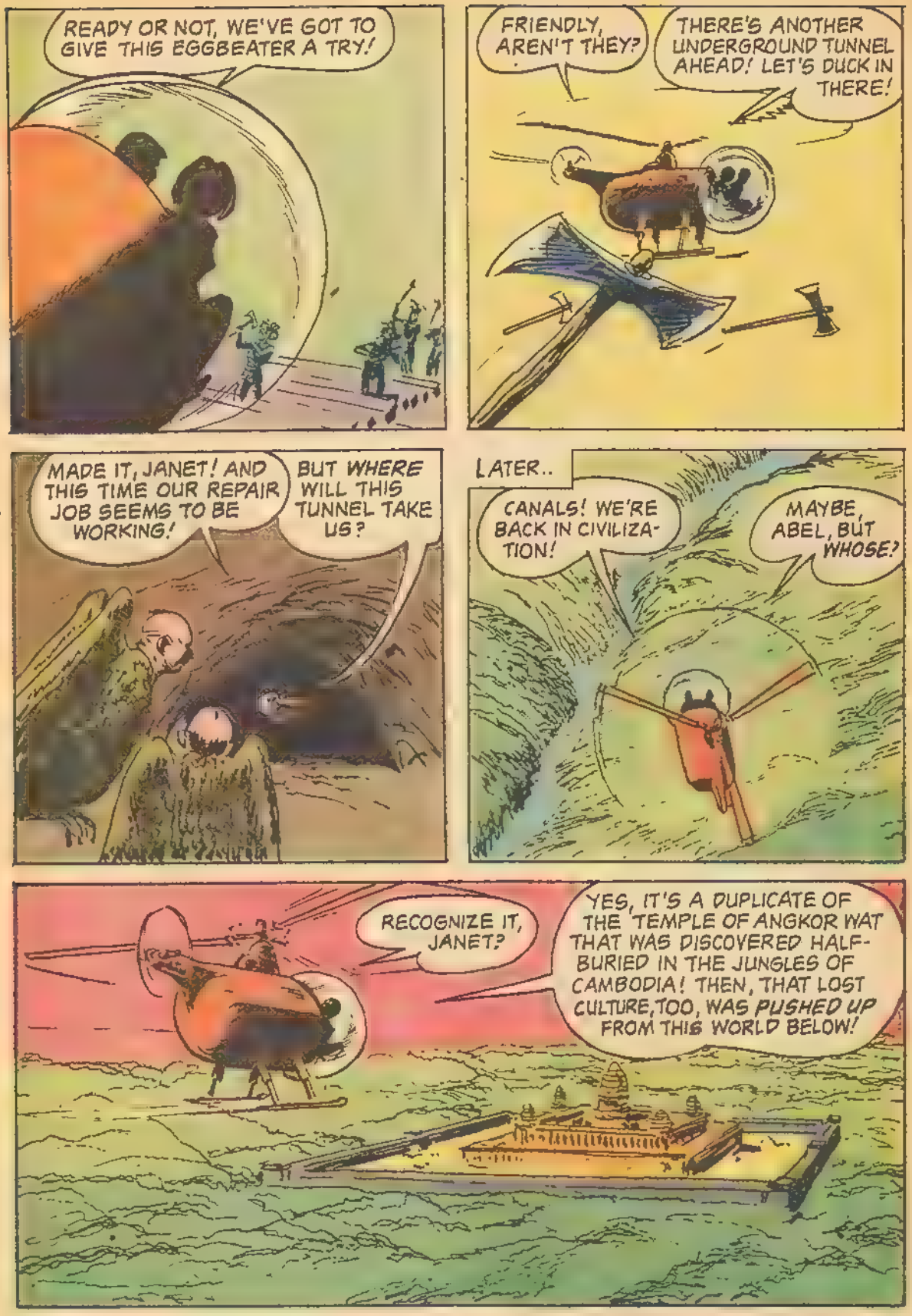


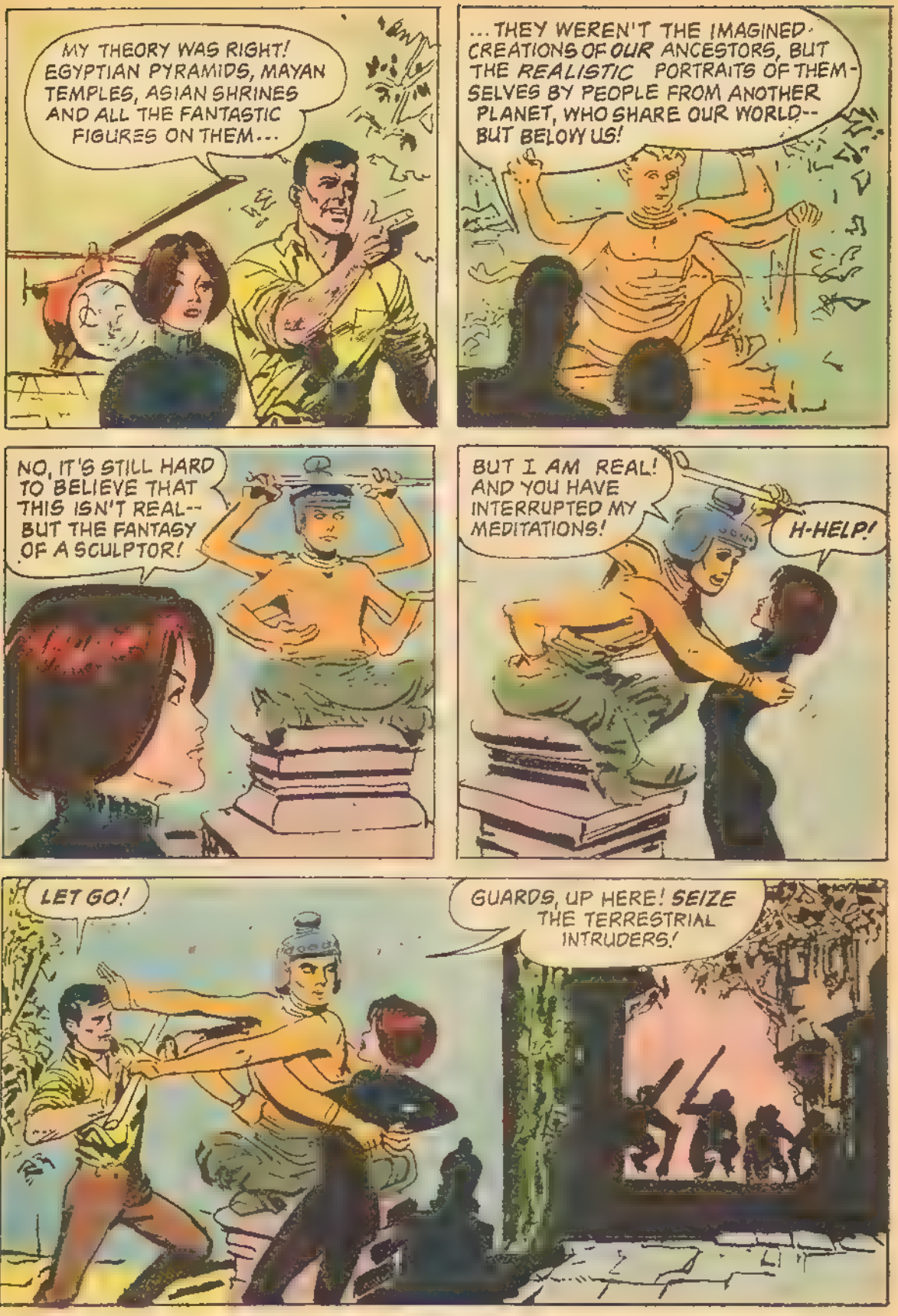
BUT SOON...

SKILLFULLY, ABEL DARE SETS THEM DOWN ON THE STARTLING STONE TEMPLE THAT APPEARS IN THE MIDST OF THE SEEMINGLY DESERTED JUNGLE...


IT'S MAYAN-- LIKE THE TEMPLES OF SOUTH AMERICA!
DON'T WE KNOW BETTER BY NOW? THIS WAS BUILT BY THE SUB-TERRANEAN PEOPLE AND THEY MAY BE NEAR US EVEN NOW!


THIS TIME, INSTEAD OF EXPLORING, THEY SET TO WORK AT ONCE...
THIS PIECE OF METAL MAY RE-INFORCE THE ROTOR ENOUGH!
WHY, THIS FRIEZE MATCHES THE ONE ON THE MOON GOD'S TEMPLE FOUND IN PERU!
THEN SUDDENLY, A DRUM BEATS SOLEMNLY...
WOOOM! BWOOM!
EEEK! ABEL, LOOK DOWN BELOW!
FEATHERED MEN! BUT THEY AREN'T WEARING COSTUMES AS WE IMAGINED THE MAYAN PRIESTS DID! THAT'S THE WAY THESE CREATURES REALLY ARE!
T- THEY SEE US!


READY OR NOT, WE'VE GOT TO GIVE THIS EGGBEATER A TRY!
FRIENDLY, AREN'T THEY?
THERE'S ANOTHER UNDERGROUND TUNNEL AHEAD! LET'S DUCK IN THERE!
MADE IT, JANET! AND THIS TIME OUR REPAIR JOB SEEMS TO BE WORKING!
BUT WHERE WILL THIS TUNNEL TAKE US?
LATER..
CANALS! WE'RE BACK IN CIVILIZATION!
MAYBE, ABEL, BUT WHOSE?
RECOGNIZE IT, JANET?
YES, IT'S A DUPLICATE OF THE TEMPLE OF ANGKOR WAT THAT WAS DISCOVERED HALF-BURIED IN THE JUNGLES OF CAMBODIA! THEN, THAT LOST CULTURE, TOO, WAS PUSHED UP FROM THIS WORLD BELOW!

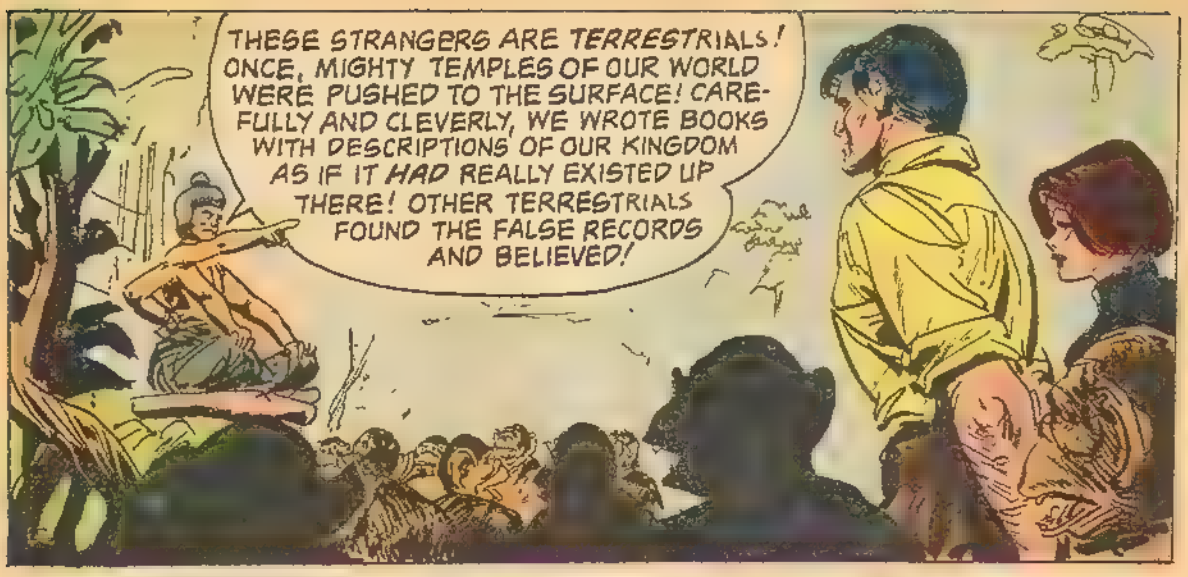

MY THEORY WAS RIGHT! EGYPTIAN PYRAMIDS, MAYAN TEMPLES, ASIAN SHRINES AND ALL THE FANTASTIC FIGURES ON THEM...
...THEY WEREN'T THE IMAGINED CREATIONS OF OUR ANCESTORS, BUT THE REALISTIC PORTRAITS OF THEMSELVES BY PEOPLE FROM ANOTHER PLANET, WHO SHARE OUR WORLD-- BUT BELOW US!
NO, IT'S STILL HARD TO BELIEVE THAT THIS ISN'T REAL-- BUT THE FANTASY OF A SCULPTOR!
BUT I AM REAL! AND YOU HAVE INTERRUPTED MY MEDITATIONS!
H-HELP!
LET GO!
GUARDS, UP HERE! SEIZE THE TERRESTRIAL INTRUDERS!

THERE! NOW RUN FOR THE 'COPTER! HURRY!
I-I DON'T NEED AN INVITATION! LET'S GO!

WATCH OUT!
I SEE THEM! BUT, THERE MAY BE TOO MANY FOR ME!

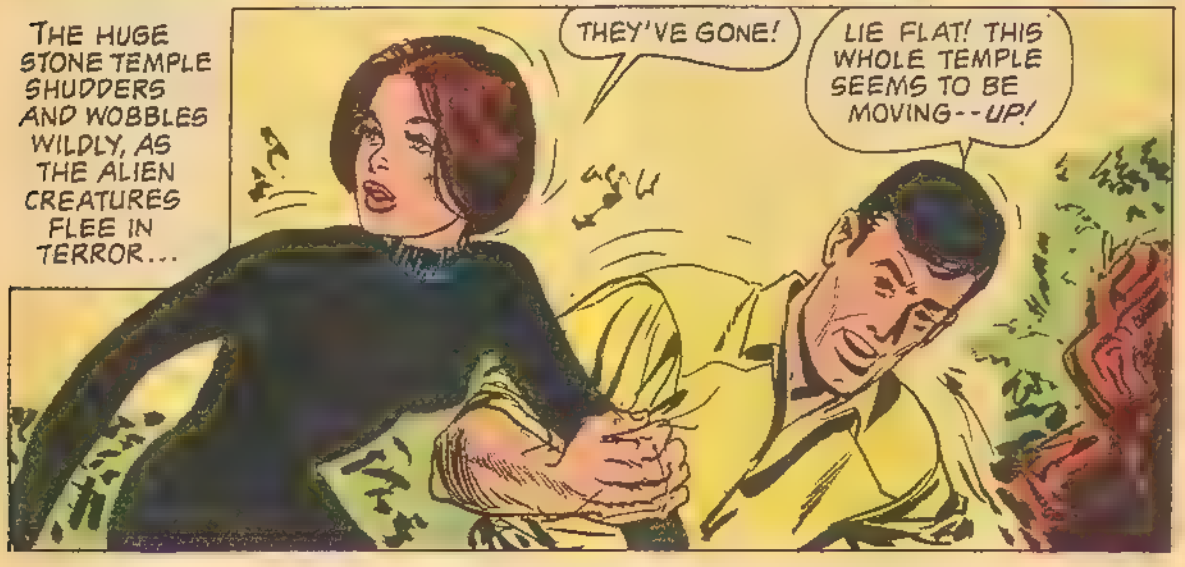
EEEK!
CAN'T BEAT THEM-- ALL OFF!

HERE, OH GREAT KING! WHAT BEFALLS THESE STRANGERS?
FOR SHATTERING MY CONTEMPLATIONS AND THE SERENITY OF MY THOUGHTS-- DEATH!

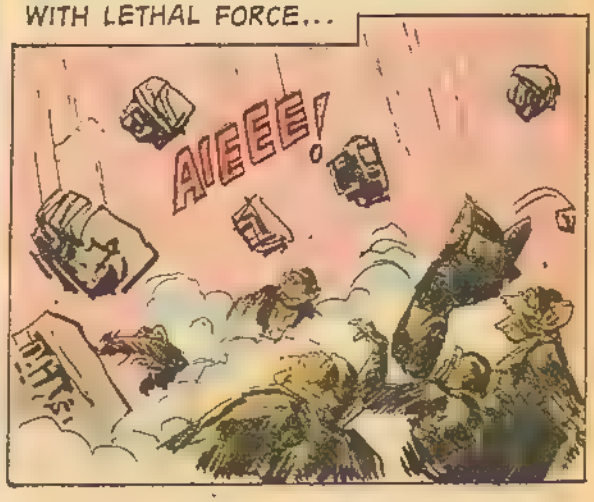

THESE STRANGERS ARE TERRESTRIALS! ONCE, MIGHTY TEMPLES OF OUR WORLD WERE PUSHED TO THE SURFACE! CAREFULLY AND CLEVERLY, WE WROTE BOOKS WITH DESCRIPTIONS OF OUR KINGDOM AS IF IT HAD REALLY EXISTED UP THERE! OTHER TERRESTRIALS FOUND THE FALSE RECORDS AND BELIEVED!

BUT NONE MUST BRING BACK THE TRUTH TO THIS PLANET'S SURFACE!... EXECUTIONER!
IT WILL BE DONE SWIFTLY!

BUT BEFORE THE HUGE SWORDS CAN STRIKE, THE GROUND TREMBLES WILDLY...
EARTHQUAKE!
HELP!!


THE HUGE STONE TEMPLE SHUDDERS AND WOBBLES WILDLY, AS THE ALIEN CREATURES FLEE IN TERROR...
THEY'VE GONE!
LIE FLAT! THIS WHOLE TEMPLE SEEMS TO BE MOVING--UP!

BUT AS HIS OBEDIENT WARRIORS RUSH UP, THE TEMPLE'S STONES CASCADE DOWN WITH LETHAL FORCE...



AS THE TREMBLING GROUND SURGES UP BENEATH THE GREAT STONE STRUCTURE...

BUT BEFORE THAT DEATH CAN STRIKE THEM, THE CAVERN'S ROOF IS CRISS-CROSSED WITH FISSURES! IT CRACKS OPEN...

ON UP THROUGH THE EARTH'S PARTING CRUST, THE QUAKE SHOVES THE TEMPLE! A JUNGLE SURROUNDS THEM, AS THE GROUND BENEATH THE STONE STRUCTURE SUDDENLY SLIDES SHUT...
WE'VE STOPPED MOVING! WE'RE SAFE!

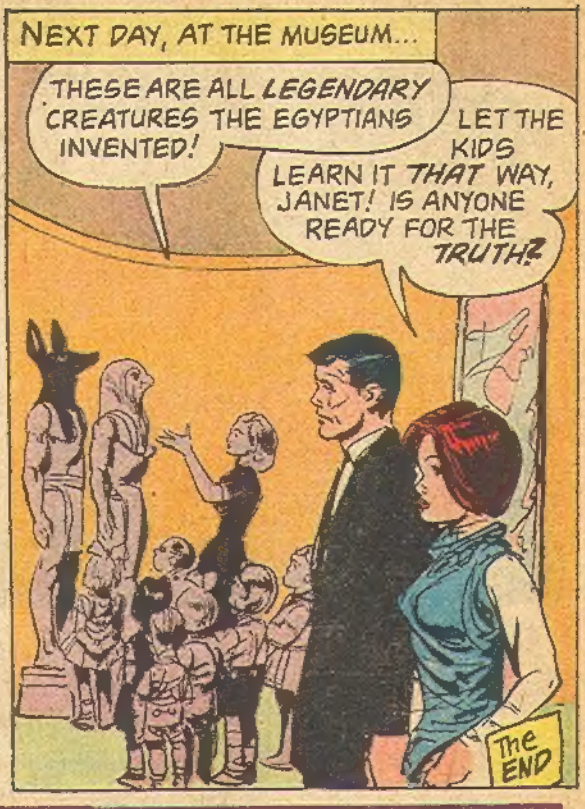
A WEEK LATER, AS THEY APPEAR ON NATIONWIDE TELEVISION...

THEY'RE PHONIES! THEIR CLAIM THAT THOSE ANCIENT RUINS AND THE FIGURES ON THEM COME FROM THE CIVILIZATION OF ANOTHER PLANET, WHOSE PEOPLE LIVE UNDER US, WAS ALL STATED IN THIS NOVEL! AND IT WAS WRITTEN IN 1896!

RIDICULOUS! I NEVER HEARD OF THAT BOOK!
YOU MEAN YOU HOPED NO ONE HAD EVER HEARD OF IT! AND THE ODDS WERE WITH YOU! IT SAYS RIGHT HERE--"LIMITED PRINTING, TWO COPIES ONLY!"

ABEL'S RIGHT! THEY TOLD US HOW THEY CREATED OTHER RECORDS AND BOOKS--
COME OFF IT! THIS IS REAL! I'M A BOOK DEALER! I WAS PACKING TO MOVE MY PLACE YESTERDAY AND CAME ACROSS THIS IN A PILE OF DUSTY OLD BOOKS I'VE HAD FOR YEARS!

WE CAN PROVE OUR JOURNEY TOOK PLACE! GO LOOK FOR THE PYRAMID THAT TOOK US DOWN INTO THOSE PLANETARY CREATURES' WORLD!
EXACTLY WHAT I HAD MY PEOPLE DO! THIS WAS TAKEN YESTERDAY! A LOCAL QUAKE EXPLAINS THE SLIGHT DAMAGE AND SHIFTING!
WHAT'S THE USE! SOMEHOW, THEY FOUND A WAY TO FORCE IT BACK UP IN-TO OUR WORLD AGAIN!


NEXT DAY, AT THE MUSEUM...
THESE ARE ALL LEGENDARY CREATURES THE EGYPTIANS INVENTED!
LET THE KIDS LEARN IT THAT WAY, JANET! IS ANYONE READY FOR THE TRUTH?
THE END

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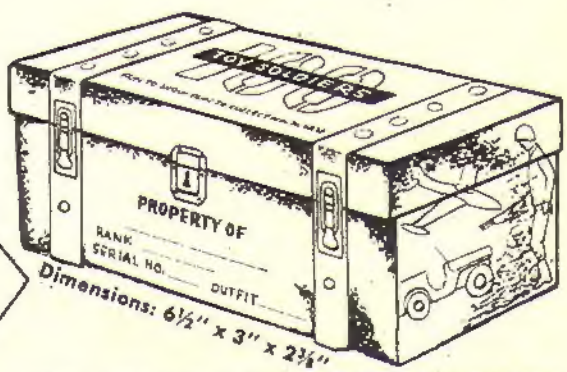

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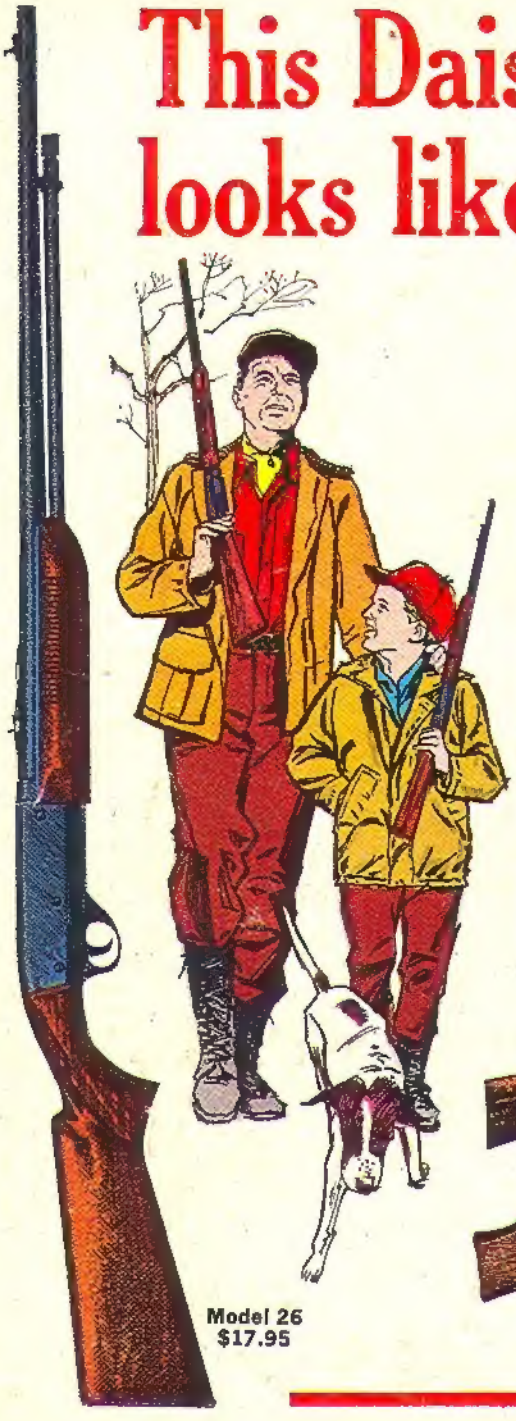

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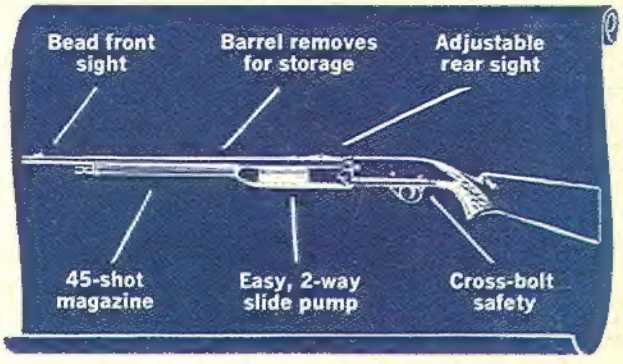

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